

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please CANCEL claims 56-60, 62, 68-72, and 76-80, and AMEND claims 61, 63-67 and 73-75 in accordance with the following:

1-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A content push service system ~~according to claim 60,~~
~~wherein~~for push-distribution of content to subscribers to the service where a plurality of content
servers, at least one agent unit, and a plurality of user terminals of the subscribers are
connected to a network using an Internet protocol, where each of the content servers is
configured to store respective content and to push-transmit update information related to
updating of its content to the at least one agent serving as a substitute for the user terminals
connected via the network, the push-transmit being responsive to the content having been
updated in the content server, the system comprising:

the at least one agent unit, which is configured to receive the update information and to
transmit via the network the update information to one or more of the user terminals if the
update information relates to content that has been registered in the at least one agent unit as
being requested by the users of the one or more of the user terminals; and where

the one or more of the user terminals are configured to receive the update information
transmitted from the at least one agent unit and to obtain the content updated

the at least one agent is locally connected to at least one provider connected to the
network,

the user terminals are connected to the at least one provider, and

the content servers transmit the update information or the content updated to the at least
one agent via the at least one provider, and the at least one agent transmits at least one of the
update information and the content updated to the user terminals via the at least one provider,

the at least one provider comprises a plurality of providers having a hierarchical
relationship among each other, and each including the at least one agent unit,

the user terminals and a lower agent unit of the agents~~agent units~~ that is directly
connected to a lower provider in a hierarchy lower than a hierarchy of an upper provider of

the providers register information about the user terminals and about which information is requested into an upper agent unit connected directly to the upper provider, and

the upper agent unit transmits, to the lower agent unit connected to lower user terminals of the user terminals, the lower user terminals that have requested at least one of the update information and the content updated, the update information updated transmitted from the content servers.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A content push service system ~~according to claim 56,~~
for push-distribution of content to subscribers to the service where a plurality of content servers,
at least one agent unit, and a plurality of user terminals of the subscribers are connected to a
network using an Internet protocol, where each of the content servers is configured to store
respective content and to push-transmit update information related to updating of its content to
the at least one agent serving as a substitute for the user terminals connected via the network,
the push-transmit being responsive to the content having been updated in the content server,
the system comprising:

the at least one agent unit, which is configured to receive the update information and to
transmit via the network the update information to one or more of the user terminals if the
update information relates to content that has been registered in the at least one agent unit as
being requested by the users of the one or more of the user terminals; and where

the one or more of the user terminals are configured to receive the update information
transmitted from the at least one agent unit and to obtain the content updated, wherein

the at least one agent unit has a table listing content servers that provide content,
and

when the at least one agent unit is notified by a content server not registered in the
table that the content is going to be provided from the content server the at least one agent
registers the content server into the table.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A content push service system ~~according to claim 56 for~~
push-distribution of content to subscribers to the service where a plurality of content servers, at
least one agent unit, and a plurality of user terminals of the subscribers are connected to a
network using an Internet protocol, where each of the content servers is configured to store
respective content and to push-transmit update information related to updating of its content to

the at least one agent serving as a substitute for the user terminals connected via the network,
the push-transmit being responsive to the content having been updated in the content server,
the system comprising:

the at least one agent unit, which is configured to receive the update information and to
transmit via the network the update information to one or more of the user terminals if the
update information relates to content that has been registered in the at least one agent unit as
being requested by the users of the one or more of the user terminals; and where

the one or more of the user terminals are configured to receive the update information
transmitted from the at least one agent unit and to obtain the content updated, wherein

the at least one agent unit further has content type management information for
managing the information per content type, and

when the at least one agent unit receives a notification made by one of the content
servers about what kind of management is carried out on the content managed by the one of the
content servers, the at least one agent unit adds or deletes the one of the content servers from
the content type management information based on the notification.

65. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 64,
wherein when the at least one agent unit receives a notification made by one of the content
servers about addition or deletion of content of a content type of the content managed by the
one of the content servers, the at least one agent unit adds or deletes the content server/servers
related to the content type to or from the content type management information.

66. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 64,
wherein when the information of the content type of the information managed by the at least one
agent unit is changed the at least one agent unit notifies the user terminals of the change.

67. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 66, wherein

the at least one agent unit manages the content types such that the content types have a hierarchical relationship among each other, and

when information of one of the content types is changed the at least one agent unit notifies of the change to a user terminal of the user terminals which has been registered to receive a lower content type having a hierarchy lower than a hierarchy of the one of the content types changed.

68-72. (Cancelled).

73. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ push service processing method ~~according to claim 70~~ for use with push-distribution of content to subscribers to the content push service, comprising:

registering information about a user terminal of a subscriber connected to a network using an Internet protocol and content requested by the user terminal into an agent which is connected to the network and serves as a substitute for the user terminal;

push-transmitting, from a content server which is connected to the network and stores content, update information related to updating of the content server's content responsive to detection of the content having been updated in the content server, to the agent via the network;

transmitting from the agent the update information to the user terminal via the network if the update information has been requested as indicated by the registering of information about the user terminal; and

receiving at the user terminal the update information transmitted from the agent and obtaining at the user terminal the content updated via the network,

wherein

the agent unit has a table listing content servers that provide content, and

when the agent unit is notified by a content server not registered in the table that the content is going to be provided from the content server the agent unit registers the content server into the table.

74. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ push service processing method ~~The push service processing method according to claim 70,~~ for use with push-distribution of content to subscribers to the content push service, comprising:

registering information about a user terminal of a subscriber connected to a network using an Internet protocol and content requested by the user terminal into an agent which is connected to the network and serves as a substitute for the user terminal;

push-transmitting, from a content server which is connected to the network and stores content, update information related to updating of the content server's content responsive to detection of the content having been updated in the content server, to the agent via the network;

transmitting from the agent the update information to the user terminal via the network if the update information has been requested as indicated by the registering of information about the user terminal; and

receiving at the user terminal the update information transmitted from the agent and obtaining at the user terminal the content updated via the network, wherein

the agent unit further has content type management information for managing the content per content type, and

when the agent unit receives a notification made by the content server about what kind of management is carried out on the content managed by the content server, the agent unit adds or deletes the content server from the content type management information based on the notification.

75. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ push service processing method according to claim 70 for use with push-distribution of content to subscribers to the content push service, comprising:

registering information about a user terminal of a subscriber connected to a network using an Internet protocol and content requested by the user terminal into an agent which is connected to the network and serves as a substitute for the user terminal;

push-transmitting, from a content server which is connected to the network and stores content, update information related to updating of the content server's content responsive to detection of the content having been updated in the content server, to the agent via the network;

transmitting from the agent the update information to the user terminal via the network if the update information has been requested as indicated by the registering of information about the user terminal; and

receiving at the user terminal the update information transmitted from the agent and obtaining at the user terminal the content updated via the network, wherein

when the agent unit receives a notification made by the content server about addition or deletion of content of a content type of the information managed by the content server, the agent unit adds or deletes the content server or content servers related to the content type to or from the content type management information.

76-80. (Cancelled).